



Department of Health and Human Services/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

## Global AIDS Program (GAP)

*Under the direction of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator's Office, the HHS/CDC Global AIDS Program (GAP) is a proud partner in the unified U.S. Government effort to implement the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. GAP helps resource-constrained countries prevent HIV infection; improve treatment, care, and support for people living with HIV; and build capacity and infrastructure to address the global HIV/AIDS pandemic.*

### *How does CDC improve access to ART in developing countries?*

#### **CDC works with countries to:**

- ◆ Develop plans, guidelines, protocols, and training materials for antiretroviral therapy (ART).
- ◆ Develop ART programs, including clinical care, training, drug and health supplies management, laboratory services, community mobilization, and monitoring and evaluation activities.
- ◆ Conduct research on ART programs.
- ◆ Share information on lessons learned through publications and presentations.

## About Our Work: *Antiretroviral Therapy*

Antiretroviral therapy (ART) reduces the incidence of opportunistic infections and prolongs survival in persons infected with HIV. However, the high cost and complexity of administering antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) have severely limited their use in resource-limited settings, where most HIV-infected persons live.

The drug management and other treatment considerations involved in HIV care programs can be complex. Intolerance to drugs and toxicity can occur. Further, excellent patient adherence to ART is critical for successful treatment. In many resource-limited settings where HIV prevalence is high, trained medical personnel, laboratory services, and drug management systems are severely limited.

Despite these difficulties, the use of ART is increasing and will probably become widely available because of several encouraging recent developments:

- ◆ The cost of ARVs has decreased dramatically.
- ◆ Funding for ART programs is available through the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria and the World Bank Multi-Country AIDS Program (MAP).
- ◆ The World Health Organization (WHO) published guidelines for scaling up ART in resource-limited settings.
- ◆ President Bush proposed the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (the Emergency Plan) in January 2003. One Emergency Plan goal is to treat 2 million HIV-infected persons with ART in 15 of the world's most affected countries by 2008.

Since 1998, the U.S. Government (USG) has supported HIV care and treatment pilot projects in developing countries that provide ART through the Global AIDS Program (GAP). These programs address the complexities associated with ART through the use of step-by-step, standardized, clinical decision-making tools or algorithms for prescribing ARVs that address:

- ◆ eligibility for ART;
- ◆ selection of first-line regimens;
- ◆ alternative ARVs that can be used when drug intolerance or toxicity occur;
- ◆ patient adherence;
- ◆ medical personnel, laboratory services, and drug management systems.

***In Côte d'Ivoire, GAP, with U.S. Government (USG) funding.*** . . supports laboratory testing and monitoring as well as evaluation of Project RETRO-CI, a collaboration of the Ministry of Health and the CDC, one of the first ART programs in Africa.

***In Kenya, GAP, with USG funding.*** . . collaborates with the Kenya Ministry of Health, the African Medical & Research Foundation (AMREF), and the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) on a HIV care and treatment program that provides ART for adults living in the Kibera slums of Nairobi. As of September 2004, nearly 200 HIV-infected persons enrolled in the program had been started on ART.

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